

commenter noted that observations made at fishway entrance 1 indicate that sea lions commonly forage at the face of the barrier gate, and out to about 10 feet (3.048 meters) below the barrier. One commenter questioned whether the barrier gate could be expanded from riverbank to riverbank to keep sea lions out of area.

Response: The EA has been modified to include additional observations on the barrier gate. The barrier gate prevents predation from occurring within the fish ladder at fishway entrance 1, but it has not stopped sea lions from foraging at the face of the barrier and areas adjacent to the fish ladder entrance. The installation of barrier gates at other fish ladder entrances will be assessed if foraging inside those entrances is noted. A physical barrier across the Willamette River is not feasible or practical.

ACTION: The EA has been modified as described in the responses to the comments. NMFS has evaluated the environmental consequences of the alternatives and has concluded that the proposed action is unlikely to result in any significant impacts on the human environment and, therefore, has made a finding of no significant impact (FONSI). The EA and FONSI have been prepared in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and with implementing regulations at 40 CFR parts 1500 through 1508 and NOAA guidelines concerning implementation of NEPA found in NOAA Administrative Order 216-6.

Copies of the EA and FONSI are available (See **ADDRESSES**).

Dated: December 22, 1997.

Hilda Diaz-Soltero,

*Director, Office of Protected Resources,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 122397E]

Marine Mammals

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of availability of revised marine mammal stock assessment reports.

SUMMARY: NMFS has incorporated public comments into revisions of marine mammal stock assessment

reports. The revision, which was initiated in 1996 is now complete, and copies of the revised reports are available to the public.

ADDRESSES: Printed copies may be obtained by writing to one of the following: Chief, Marine Mammal Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1335 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3226, Attn: Stock Assessments; Douglas P. DeMaster, Alaska Fisheries Science Center (F/AKC), NMFS, 7600 Sand Point Way, Seattle, WA 98115-0070 regarding Alaska regional stock assessments; James Lecky, Southwest Regional Office, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Boulevard, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213, regarding Pacific regional stock assessments; or Gordon Waring, Northeast Fisheries Science Center, NMFS, 166 Water Street, Woods Hole, MA 02543-1097 regarding Atlantic regional stock assessments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Thomas C. Eagle, (301) 713-2322, Douglas P. DeMaster, (206) 526-4045 regarding Alaska regional stock assessments; James Lecky, (562) 980-4020 regarding Pacific regional stock assessments; or Gordon Waring, (508) 495-2000 regarding Atlantic regional stock assessments.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 117 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) requires NMFS and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to prepare stock assessment reports for all marine mammal stocks that occur in waters under the jurisdiction of the United States. These reports must contain information regarding the distribution and abundance of the stock, population growth rates and trends, estimates of annual human-caused mortality from all sources, descriptions of the fisheries with which the stock interacts, and the status of the stocks. NMFS completed the 1996 draft stock assessment reports and made them available for public review and comment on January 21, 1997 (62 FR 3005). During the public comment period and subsequent to it, NMFS consulted extensively with Scientific Review Groups (SRGs), established also under the MMPA, to discuss their comments, as well as the comments received from the public. The results of the different SRG discussions and comments received from the public, conservation organizations, state, and other Federal agencies were reviewed and incorporated into these final reports as appropriate. The 1996 final marine mammal stock assessment reports have now been completed and are available for distribution.

Dated: December 24, 1997.

Hilda Diaz-Soltero,

*Director, Office of Protected Resources,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 122397G]

Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting (work session).

SUMMARY: The Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Salmon Technical Team (STT) will hold a work session which is open to the public.

DATES: The work session will begin at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, January 20, 1998, and continue from approximately 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day through Friday, January 23, 1998.

ADDRESSES: The work session will be held at the Council office, 2130 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 224, Portland, OR 97201.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. John Coon, Salmon Management Coordinator; telephone: (503) 326-6352.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the STT work session is to draft the "Review of 1997 Ocean Salmon Fisheries." The final report will be distributed to the public and reviewed by the Council at its March 1998 meeting in Millbrae, CA.

Although other issues not contained in this agenda may come before this Team for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal Team action during this meeting. Team action will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agenda listed in this notice.

Special Accommodations

The work session is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Mr. Eric Greene at (503) 326-6352 at least 5 days prior to the work session date.